BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 11-36* *September 9th, 2011*

- **BC's unemployment rate inches up to 7.5% in August**
- **Exports slip 1.1% in July**
- **Building permits decline 8.1% in July**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate inched up to 7.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in August, as a drop in the number of jobs (-0.3%, or -6,000) was accompanied by next to no change (+0.0%, or +1,100) in the number of people who were either working or looking for work.** BC's unemployment rate was slightly above the national average (7.3%) and remained the highest among the western provinces. It was three percentage points higher than the lowest rate in the country (Saskatchewan's 4.5%). Manitoba (5.4%) and Alberta (5.6%) had the next lowest unemployment rates, while BC was ranked fourth (along with Ontario) among the provinces. The participation rate remained stable in August, with 64.8% of the working age population (15 and older) in the labour force.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Employment in the goods sector climbed 1.7%, with the number of jobs increasing in some industries.** The job count in construction jumped 3.1% and the manufacturing industry took on more workers (+6.9%) for the first time since April. At the same time, there were substantially fewer jobs in utilities (-38.2%), while the primary industries (forestry, fishing & mining) and agriculture also saw employment numbers fall.

  The service sector, which employs most of the workers in the province, recorded a marginal decrease in employment (-0.7%) as job growth in some industries was offset by declines in others. Employment in information, culture & recreation slipped 10.4% and there were also notably fewer jobs in education (-6.6%), accommodation & food (-4.9%) and public administration (-2.3%). However, health care & social assistance (+7.2%) and professional, scientific & technical services (+2.6%) took on significantly more workers.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Fewer men (-0.5%) but an unchanged number of women (+0.0%) had jobs in August.** Employment dropped in the public sector (-5.6%), while there were noteworthy increases in the private sector (+0.9%) and among the province's self-employed (+1.4%). Full-time employment edged down 0.7%, while the number of people with part-time jobs climbed (+1.3%). The unemployment rate for young people (aged 15-24) remained high (16.2%), close to triple the 5.9% rate for workers aged 25 and over. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Among the regions, jobless rates ranged from 4.2% (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) in Northeast to 9.5% in Kootenay.** Unemployment rates were down in Vancouver Island/Coast, Thompson-Okanagan and Northeast, but climbed in all other regions.

  In Vancouver, the unemployment rate climbed to 7.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) from 7.2% in the previous month. Victoria, however, saw a slight decrease (-0.1 percentage points to 6.1%). Nanaimo (12.3%) and Vernon (9.8%) recorded comparatively high jobless rates in August although, rates were lower than in the

Report **Foundation of Our Future: Education and Well-Being of Children and Youth in British Columbia**

Did you know...

Three quarters (76%) of British Columbians believe that Canadian society has become less tolerant of others since the 9/11 terrorist attacks *Source: Ipsos Canada*

previous month in both cases.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

The Economy

- **The value of BC origin exports slipped 1.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July, all but reversing a similar increase (+1.2%) in June.** Forestry exports tumbled 8.5%, while exports of machinery & transportation equipment (-6.7%) were also down. However, energy (+1.2%) agriculture & fish (+2.8%) and industrial & consumer (+7.1%) product exports showed more promise.

  Exports to the US were off 3.5%, as shipments of machinery & auto equipment (-4.5%), agriculture & fish (-4.9%), energy (-5.1%) and industrial & consumer (-11.2%) goods all decreased. Increased exports of forestry products (+8.0%) south of the border were unable to offset the declines. Meanwhile, shipments to destinations other than the US inched up (+0.6%), largely due to sharp increases in agriculture & fish (+20.0%) and industrial & consumer (+21.9%) product exports, which offset declines in other commodities. Overseas shipments of energy products were also up (+4.4%).

  Canadian exports rose 2.2% in July, with shipments of machinery & equipment (+5.5%) and automotive products (+7.6%) among those fuelling the growth. Trade in some other goods, including forestry (-4.3%) and energy (-2.1%) products tempered overall growth in July. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities dipped 8.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July, as an increase in non-residential permits (+11.4%) was unable to offset a 17.1% decline in planned spending on residential building projects.**

  In Kelowna, permits were down 62.4%, among the most significant abatements in the country. Victoria (-32.3%) and Abbotsford-Mission (-24.7%) also posted double-digit decreases, while Vancouver (-1.3%) saw a more moderate drop.

  Nationally, permits jumped 6.3% with increases in other provinces ranging from 3.4% in Newfoundland & Labrador to 44.0% in Nova Scotia. Four provinces posted decreases in July, the most notable of which was in Manitoba (-35.5%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Year-to-date, the value of building permits were just 0.4% higher than in the first seven months of 2010, with three regions posting increases in the value of permits issued.** Permits jumped 103.7% in North Coast, partly due to a residential building boom (+30.4%) together with a surge in planned spending on industrial projects.

  In Mainland/Southwest, a 9.6% increase in the value of permits reflected significantly higher spending on commercial, industrial and residential projects. More modest increases in the value of permits were recorded in Northeast (+2.3%).

  Planned spending on new projects fell in the remaining regions, with the biggest decline occurring in Cariboo (-43.0%), where the value of permits issued for institutional projects plunged. Municipalities in Vancouver Island/Coast (-8.2%), Thompson-Okanagan (-17.4%) Kootenay (-25.3%) and Nechako (-39.2%) also saw permits fall below 2010 year-to-date levels.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **The cost of new housing in BC's largest metropolitan centre was relatively flat in July.** Vancouver's New Housing Price Index was 0.1% higher than in July 2010, reflecting unchanged housing costs (+0.0%) and slightly higher land values (+0.3%). Meanwhile, housing (-1.6%) and land (-0.8%) prices both contributed to a 1.6% decrease in the Victoria index. Ontario and Quebec helped drive up the national housing price index (+2.3%) with Montreal (+3.3%) and Toronto & Oshawa (+5.2%) posting notable increases over July of last year. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

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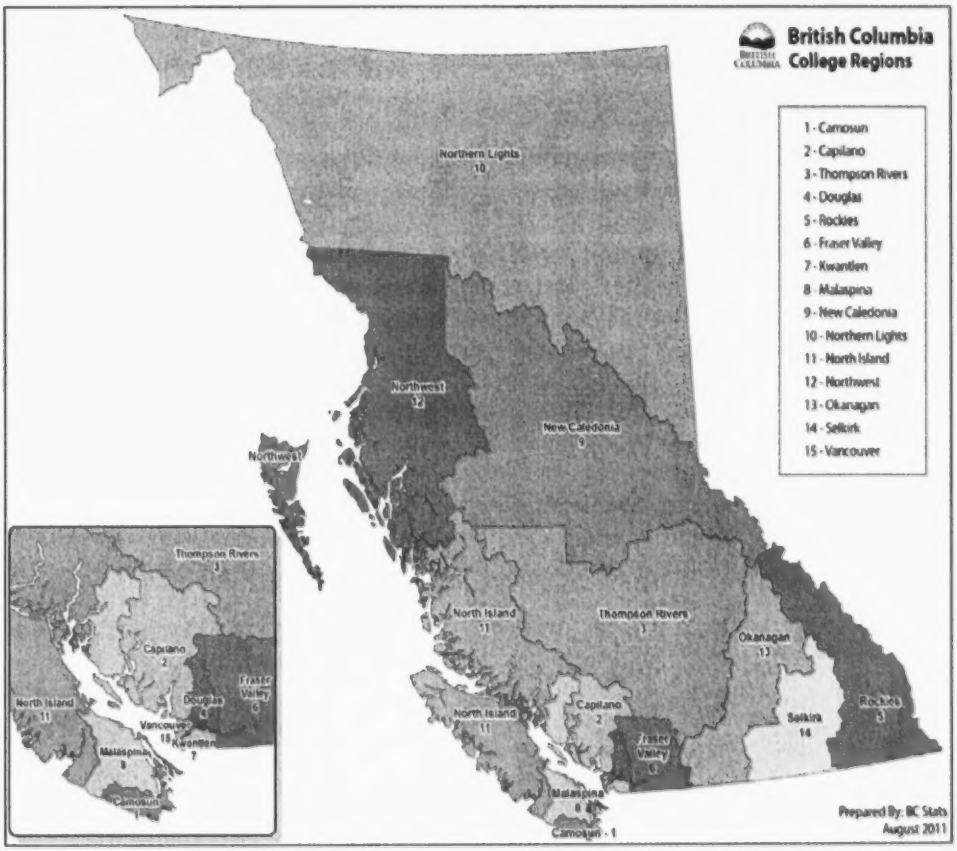
Foundation of Our Future: Education and Well-Being of Children and Youth in British Columbia

The importance of education as a major determinant of health and well-being has been established in many studies in Canada and other countries. Children and youth who perform well in school and graduate from high school tend to have better job opportunities and lead healthier lives. Researchers have also documented that those with more years of schooling have better life expectancy, better overall health, and are less likely to engage in unhealthy behaviours such as obsessive smoking and drinking, illegal drugs or being overweight or obese (Cutler & Lleras-Muney, 2006). Furthermore, children and youth who spend more time in school and continue on to graduate from high school are less likely to engage in criminal activity and spend time in prison (Lochner & Moretti, 2003).

This report will utilize provincial data from the BC Stats Socio-Economic Profiles to analyze the patterns of education and well-being of children and youth in BC. The analysis of this report is based on data for BC's college regions. The names and locations of the 15 college regions are provided in the following map.



Education

Foundation Skills Assessments

Each year, Grade 4 and 7 students across BC take part in a series of tests in reading, writing and mathematics called the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA). Developed by over 500 teachers in BC, the purpose of the FSA is to evaluate the levels of students in all subject areas in each school and school district and recommend plans that will improve student achievements. The FSAs are not meant to be comprehensive but are in place to provide a snapshot of the level of students in each grade according to provincial standards (Ministry of Education, 2003).

Grade 4 Reading and Writing

Figure 1 shows the average 2007/08-2009/10 Reading and Writing FSA test results for Grade 4 students who were below the standard for all the college regions in the province. Based on these results, Northwest had the highest rate of students below standards in Reading (28.4 percent) while New Caledonia had the highest rate of students below standards in Writing (28.4 percent). The college region with best test scores was Capilano with Reading score of 12.3 percent and Writing score of 12.4 percent. The provincial average of Grade 4 Reading and Writing was 18.7 percent and 22.4 percent respectively.

Grade 7 Reading and Writing

Figure 2 shows the percentage of students who performed below standards in Grade 7 Reading and Writing FSA tests. Northern Lights had the highest rate of students who performed below standards in Grade 7 Reading tests at 30.8 percent. North Island and New Caledonia had the highest rates of students who preformed below standards in Grade 7 Writing at 27.8 percent and 27.7 percent respectively. As with Grade 4, Capilano had the lowest rate of students who performed below standards in both Grade 7 Reading (15.1 percent) and Writing (10.9 percent). The provincial average for Grade 7 Reading and Writing tests was 22.4 percent and 17.6 percent respectively.

Figure 1: Percent of Grade 4 Reading and Writing Tests Below Standard, College Regions and BC, Average 2007/08-2009/10

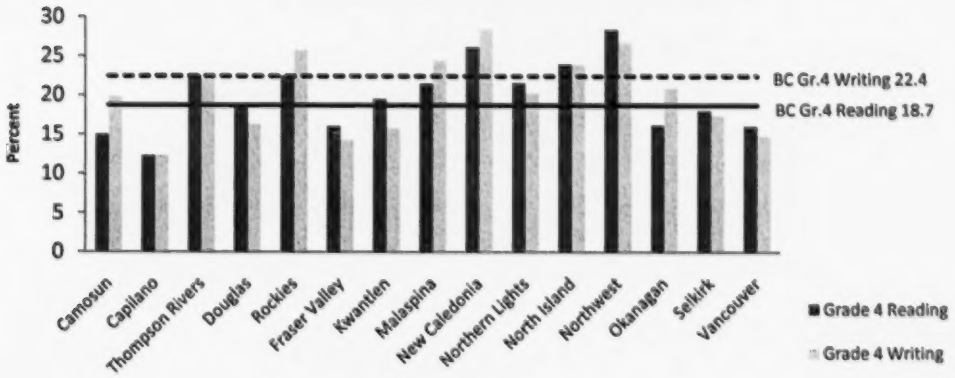
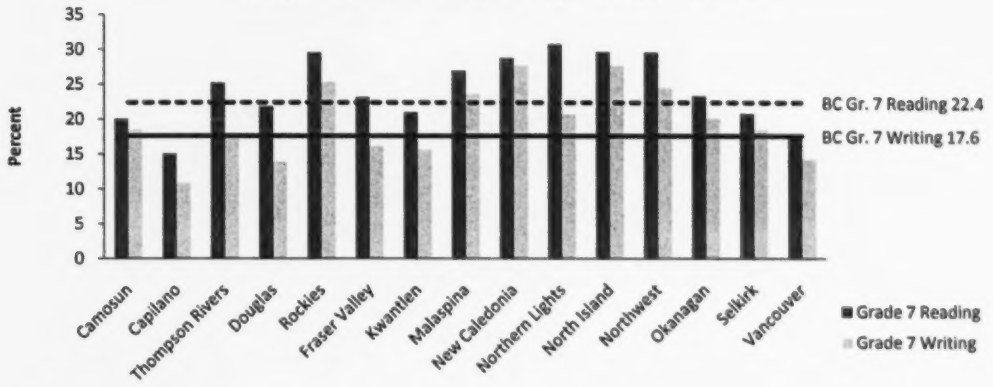


Figure 2: Percent of Grade 7 Reading and Writing Tests Below Standard, College Regions and BC, Average 2007/08-2009/10



Grade 10 Provincial Exams

Figure 3 shows the percentage of the students who did not complete their Grade 10 Math and English provincial exams for the time period of 2007/08-2009/10. During this time period, Northern Lights had the highest non-completion rate for Grade 10 Math exams at 67.0 percent and Northwest had the highest non-completion rate for Grade 10 English exams at 30.5 percent. The lowest rate of non-completion rates for Grade 10 Math exams was seen in Vancouver at 23.4 percent while the lowest non-completion rate for Grade 10 English exams was seen in Capilano at 10.2 percent. The BC average for Grade 10 provincial Math and English exams were 40.1 percent and 15.9 percent respectively. Figure 4 shows the percentage of students who did not complete their Grade 12 Math and English exams during the time period of 2007/08-2009/10. Of all college regions, Northern Lights had the highest non-completion rate for Grade 12 Math at 94.2 percent followed closely by Thompson Rivers at 93.9 percent. The lowest rate of non-completion for Grade 12 Math was seen in Vancouver at 70.1 percent. Northwest and Northern Lights also had the highest non-completion rates for Grade 12 English at 50.4 percent and 49.8 percent respectively. The lowest rate of non-completion for Grade 12 Math exams was seen in Vancouver and Capilano at 19.9 percent and 20.9 percent respectively.

High School Graduation

Between 2007/08 and 2009/10, Northern Lights and Northwest had the highest percentages of 18-year-olds who did not graduate from high school at 41.4 percent and 40.3 percent respectively[1]. (Figure 5) This was considerably higher that the provincial average of 29 percent. Capilano had the lowest rate of non-graduates at 20.2 percent.

[1] The percent of 18-Year-Olds who did not graduate is calculated as the population of 18 year olds minus the number of high school graduates as a % of 18 year olds. This is used as an indicator of the high school drop-out rate.

Figure 3: Grade 10 Provincial Exam Non-Completion Rates, College Regions and BC, 2007/08-2009/10

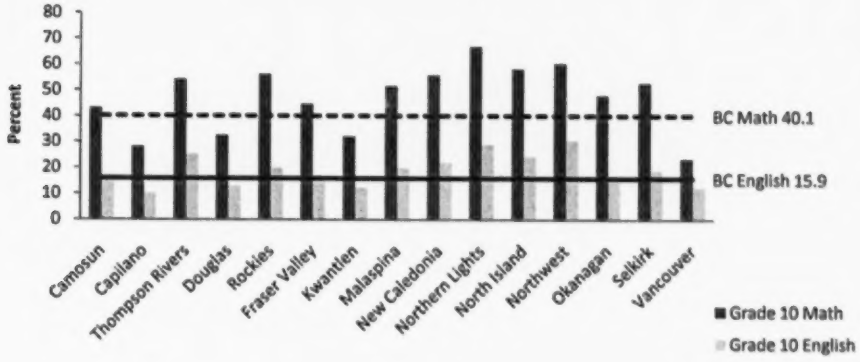


Figure 4: Grade 12 Provincial Exams Non-Completion Rates, College Regions and BC, 2007/08-2009/10

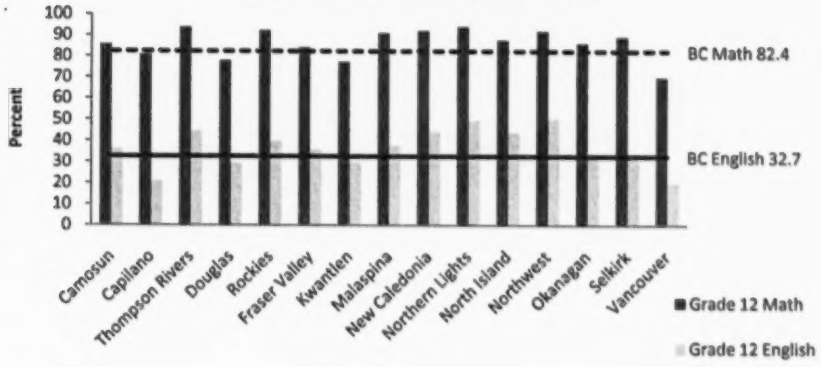
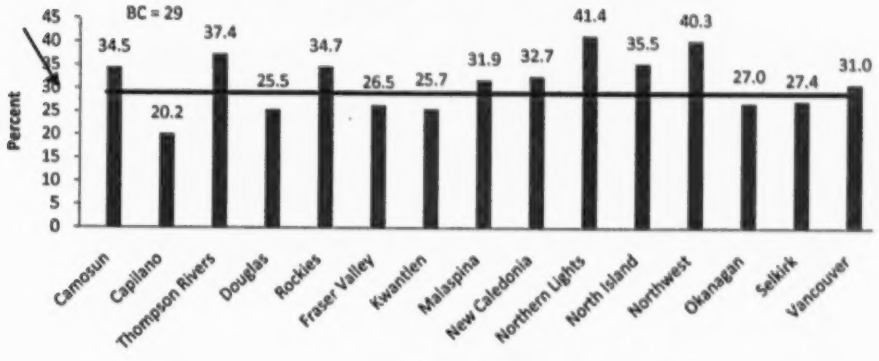


Figure 5: Percent of 18-Year-Olds who did not graduate from High School, College Regions and BC, 2007/08-2009/10



Income Assistance

The income assistance data is reported for adults and children who receive income support under the BC Employment and Assistance program. Persons with disabilities, children in the home of a relative and Aboriginal people living on reserve are not included in this data. The Socio-Economic Profiles and Indices of BC Stats include only those on temporary assistance, including cases with recipient types expected to work (expected to work includes those who are on a medical condition, temporarily excused, or have persistent multiple barriers).

Children and Youth on Income Assistance

Figure 6 provides the percentage of children in families who received income assistance during the month of September 2010. College Region of Northwest had the highest rate of children in families on income assistance at 9.8 percent followed by regions of New Caledonia at 6.7 percent and Thompson Rivers at 6.1 percent. These regions all had rates that were much higher than the provincial rate of 3.4 percent. Capilano had the lowest rate in the province at 1.0 percent. Figure 7 shows children in single parent families who received income assistance during the month of September in 2010. Northwest had the highest number of single parent families on income assistance at 7.7 percent while Capilano had the lowest rate in the province at 0.9 percent. The provincial rate was at 2.9 percent. Figure 8 shows the percent of youth age 15-24 who received income assistance in September 2010. Similar to the results of children in families with income assistance, Northwest had the highest percentage of youth who received income assistance in September 2010 at 5.3 percent. Regions of New Caledonia, North Island and Thompson Rivers also showed high rates at 4.0, 3.8 and 3.6 respectively. Capilano had the lowest rate at 0.8 percent. The BC average was 2.2 percent.

Figure 6: Percent of Children in Families Receiving Income Assitance , College Regions and BC, September 2010

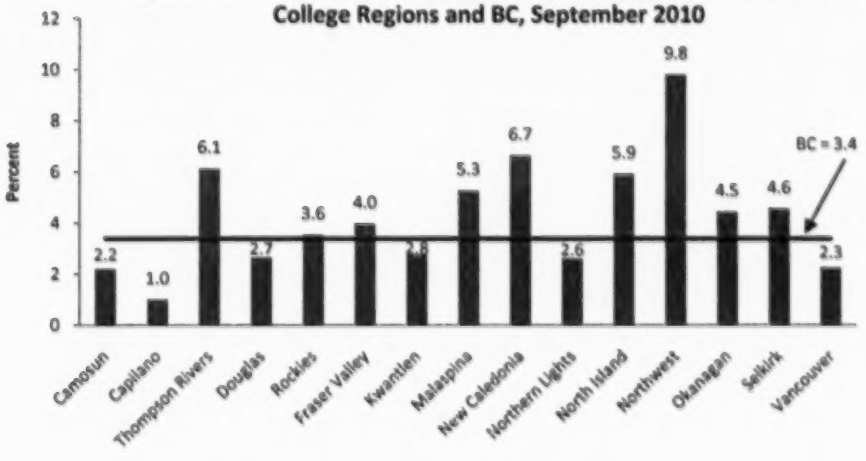


Figure 7: Percent of Children in Single Parent Families Receiving Income Assistance, College Regions and BC, September 2010

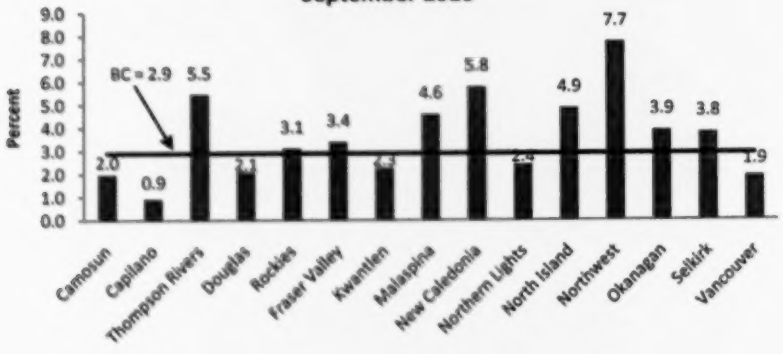
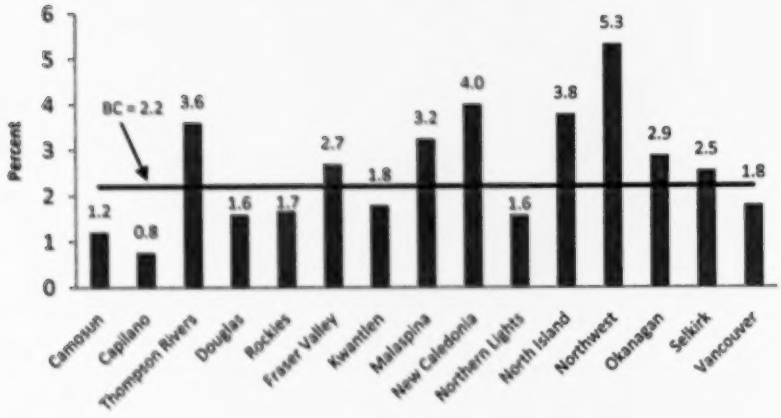


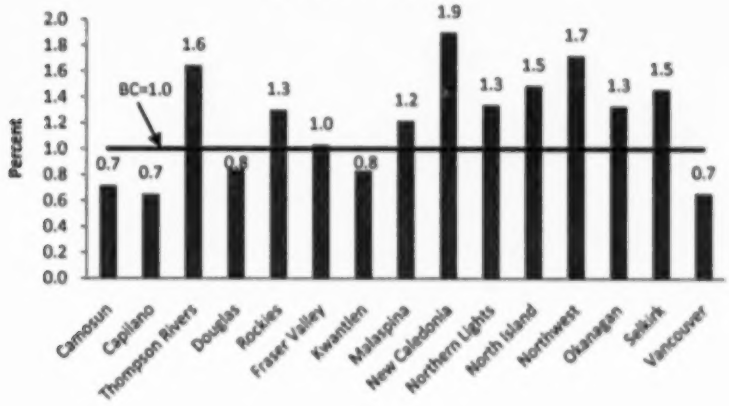
Figure 8: Percent of Youth (15-24) Receiving Income Assistance, College Regions and BC, September 2010



Employment Insurance

Employment Insurance benefits are provided to unemployed persons who are qualified under the Employment Insurance Program. Not all unemployed people receive benefits. Some are not covered by the system, are ineligible for benefits, do not make a claim, or have exhausted their benefit entitlement. Figure 9 shows the rates of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 who received employment insurance in September 2010. The college region with the highest rate of employment insurance was New Caledonia (1.9 percent). Northwest was closely behind at 1.7 percent. Capilano, Vancouver and Camosun all shared the lowest rate at 0.7 percent. The provincial average was 1.0 percent.

Figure 9: Youth (15-24) Receiving Employment Insurance in BC, September 2010



Crime

Serious Violent Crimes

Serious violent crimes include the crime categories of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault resulting in bodily harm, as well as robbery and abduction. The average crime rate for the age group 12-17 for the 3-year period of 2007-2009 was 3.9 per 1,000 in Northwest - the highest rate in the province and considerably higher than the provincial average of 2.6 per 1,000. Thompson Rivers had the second highest rate at 3.3 per 1,000. (Figure 10)

Serious Property Crimes

Serious property crimes include all breaking and entering (excluding motor vehicle theft) and minor crimes (such as bicycle theft and pick pocketing). Figure 11 shows the serious property crime rates for children and youth, age 12-17 for 2007-2009. As with serious violent crimes, Northwest had the highest serious property crime rate at 7.8 per 1,000, over 5 times the provincial average of 1.5 per 1,000. Northern Lights also had a considerably high serious property crime rate at 5.1 per 1,000.

Figure 10: Serious Violent Crimes, Age 12-17, College Regions and BC, Average 2007-2009

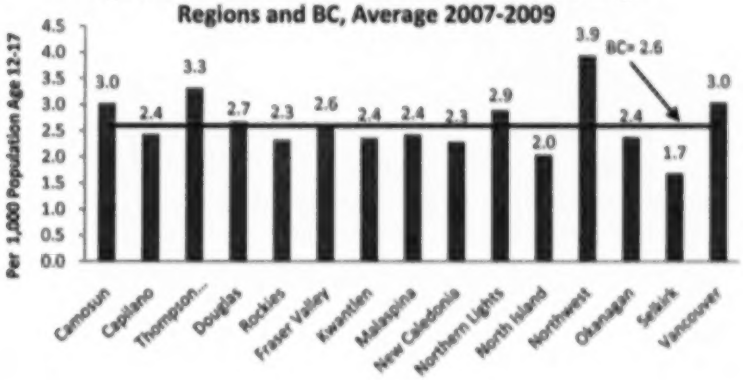
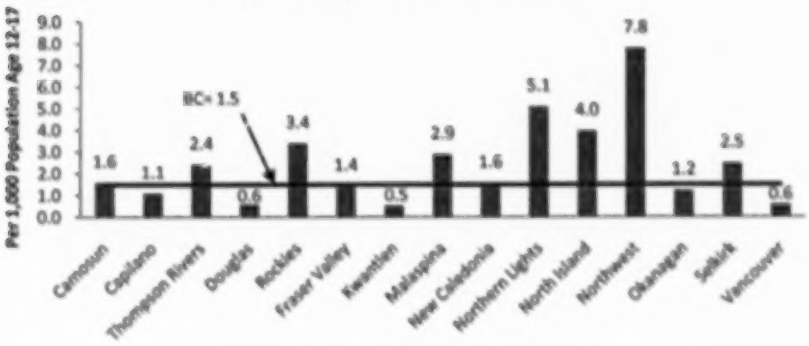


Figure 11: Serious Property Crime Rates, Age 12-17, College Regions and BC, Average 2007-2009



A Profile of Two Distinct Regions: Capilano and Northwest

Throughout this analysis, a considerable difference was seen for all indicators for children and youth in the regions of Capilano and Northwest which prompted further analysis of other indicators in these college regions. A closer look at these indicators showed similar results and supported the earlier conclusions about the close relationship between education and overall health and well-being. Table 1 provides a summary of education, employment, income, health, and socio-economic indicators for the two communities of Capilano, Northwest, and the Province. For all indicators, there is substantial difference (2 to 3 times) between Capilano and Northwest college regions. For example, the rate of those without post-secondary credentials in 2006 was 26.7 percent in Capilano compared to 50.3 percent in Northwest. The provincial average was 37.2 percent. Similarly, the rate of population receiving income assistance in September 2010 was 0.7 percent in Capilano as opposed to 4.9 percent in Northwest. As for health indicators, life expectancy was considerably lower in Northwest (78.5 years) as opposed to Capilano (83.3 years). The provincial life expectancy average was 81.7 years. Also the rate of potential years of life lost due to suicide/homicide was 2.7 per 1,000 in Capilano compared to 8.0 per 1,000 in Northwest, nearly 3 times higher. Other socio-economic indicators also showed similar patterns. The average total serious violent crime rates for 2007-2009 was 1.9 percent in Capilano compared to 4.1 percent in Northwest. The rates for total serious property crimes for the same period also showed similar results for the two areas at 5.9 percent and 9.5 percent respectively. Non-Cannabis drug offences were also considerably lower in Capilano (132.7 per 100,000) in comparison to Northwest (242.6 per 100,000).

Overall, the analysis of these two communities supports the earlier results that children and youth are more vulnerable to below standards school performance and poor health and well-being when they live in communities that struggle with economic, health, and social issues on all levels.

Table 1: College Region Profiles: Capilano and Northwest

Indicator	Capilano	North-west	BC
Population (2006)	237,922	72,148	4,113,487
Lone Parents (2006) (%)	24.2	29.4	25.7
Average Family Income (2005)	$111,502	$68,985	$80,531
Female Lone-Parent Income (2005)	$51,168	$34,596	$43,491
Population Receiving Income Assistance (Sept. 2010) (%)	0.7	4.9	1.9
Employment Insurance, Age 15+ (4 Quarter Avg, Sept.2010) (%)	1.4	4.1	2.1
18-year-olds Who did not Graduate (Avg 2007/08-2009/10) (%)	20.2	40.3	29.0
Without Post-Secondary Credentials, 2006 (%)	26.7	50.3	37.2
Total Serious Violent Crime Rate (Avg 2007-2009) (%)	1.9	4.1	3.5
Total Serious Property Crime Rate (Avg 2007-2009) (%)	5.9	9.5	8.8
Non-Cannabis Drug Offenses (Per 100,000)	132.7	242.6	227.2
Illicit Drug Deaths (Per 100,000, Age 19-64)	2.5	6.5	6.2
Life Expectancy at Birth (Avg 2006-2010) (Years)	83.3	78.5	81.7
Potential Years of Life Lost due to Suicide/Homicide (Per 1,000)	2.7	8.0	3.9
Infant Mortality (Per 1,000 Live Births)	3.0	4.3	3.8
Children in Care (Per 1,000 Age 0-18, Dec. 2010)	5.8	15.2	9.2
Teen Pregnancies (Per 1,000 Women Age 15-19)	15.5	55.5	26.3

Conclusion

The close association between educational achievements and health and well-being of children and youth has been established in many studies in BC and Canada. Children and youth who have the opportunity to stay in school are more likely to succeed in life by having a better chance of achieving post-secondary education, better employment opportunities and ultimately better health and well-being. In addition, it has been shown that children and youth who stay in school are less likely to engage in criminal activity.

Helping children and youth achieve their best education results and future potential is not a simple task as many supportive factors need to be present in the schools and the communities. A number of recent studies have examined these factors and have shown evidence-based results of their presence and effectiveness in the communities. An in depth analysis of these factors and their impact on the education, health and well-being of vulnerable children in British Columbia will be explored in a future article.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,563.3	1.1
Canada	34,349.2	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jun 2011	3,113	0.6
Merchandise Exports - Jul 2011	2,725	-1.1
Retail Sales - Jun 2011	4,948	0.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jul 2011)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.7	2.3
Vancouver	1.6	2.4
Victoria	1.6	2.1
Canada	2.7	2.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug 2011	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-6.0	
Labour Force - BC	2,452.2	0.0
Employed - BC	2,268.1	-0.3
Unemployed - BC	184.1	2.7
		Jul 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.5	7.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.3	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Sep 7/2011	Sep 8/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.30
- 5 year	5.39	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Sep 7/2011	Sep 8/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9883	1.0359
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0147	0.9639
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug 2011	% change on one year ago
BC	839.93	0.8
Canada	839.99	1.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices, 2010

The regional socio-economic profiles present data in tables and charts on population, economic hardship, labour market, education, crime, health, immigrants, and risk factors for children and youth. The socio-economic indices summarize social and economic conditions over a wide variety of indicators into a single composite index. When viewed together, these indices provide a summary measure of the relative successes and challenges across regions of the province and provide policy makers with information that supports fact based decision-making when allocating budgetary resources.

The socio-economic profiles are available for various regions within the province, including: Development Regions, Regional Districts, Local Health Areas, College Regions, School Districts, Health Service Delivery Areas, Health Authorities, and custom geographies. The socio-economic indices are available for Regional Districts and Local Health Areas.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

BC Labour Market Outlook 2010-2020

The second annual Labour Market Outlook (2010-2020) report, featuring labour market supply and demand projections by occupation and region, is now available. Based on the BC Labour Market Scenario Model (undertaken by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation in partnership with BC Stats and the Ministry of Finance), this report provides projections of future job openings and potential labour market imbalances.

http://www.workbc.ca/docs/BCLMOutlook.pdf

Released this week by BC Stats

- Exports, July 2011
- Labour Force Statistics, August 2011
- Earnings & Employment Trends, August 2011

Next week

- No subscription releases

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